

EXPLORING OUR FAITH – The Lord's Vineyard

Today's reading from Isaiah (5.1-7) presents a very elaborate description -a metaphor- of a vineyard. Understanding metaphors involves interpretation. The readings in our liturgy always include three segments. There is immense complexity in the relationships among them and understanding requires an ability to interpret how they illustrate one another as well as a grasp of context. In the gospel Jesus begin his parable by almost quoting Isaiah: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower."

The vineyard is not just a place to grow grapes but an entire business establishment for fermenting grapes and selling wine. And and selling wine. In the liturgy of the past few weeks, vineyards are featured in several parables, and it is clear the business is a very profitable one, providing employment for workers and wealth for the owner. Isaiah identifies the vineyard with the people God has created the People of God. As a Christian theologian I know that I cannot "know" God, but my gift is to try to understand the people who wrote and passed down the Holy Scriptures: the historians and prophets and especially those writers who told us what Jesus taught. Mostly He taught in parables, so I try to understand how parables teach and guide us.

Isaiah's version of the vineyard teaches me that the distinction we like to make between God's Creation (the natural world, or "ecology" and human creation (the artificial or "economy") is simply invalid. Either the Creator makes everything, natural and artificial, or we don't believe in a Creator at all. A picture of God's creation can just as easily be a skyline of Toronto as of the Rocky Mountains. Athanasius said "We honour the Creator through His Creation." All of it.

Today's liturgy places a reading from Saint Paul's Letter to the Philippians between the two stories of the Vineyard. Paul says, "Do not worry about anything."

Do not worry about anything. Instead, fill your mind with the beauty of God's creation., whatever is true: Science, including Math, Physics, Biology.
 whatever is honourable: the Law, civil, criminal, religious.
 whatever is just: honest work and trade (the economy)
 whatever is pure: children at play?
 whatever is pleasing: music, dance, food and drink?
 whatever is commendable: caring for the sick and poor, teaching.
 "If there is any excellence, anything worthy of praise, think of these things."

To avoid worry is to think positively about any of the above human activities. Perhaps it is this admonition from Saint Paul that inspired the Church's deep commitment to schools and hospitals. To actively work at solving problems is a good way to avoid worrying about them.

In my opinion there are two very serious problems in our world: the continues enslavement of women in many societies and global warming. Both problems will be solved by the combined efforts of people who "in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

~Agnes Beirne, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish Grouping

Our Lady of Hope Pastoral Unit

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time 8 October 2023

Immaculate Conception Church, Rexton

St-Peter's Church, South Branch



Parish Office:

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Office Hours:

Tuesday 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm,

Wednesday & Thursday – 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Priest-Moderator: Fr. Bernard Gauthier, C.Ss.R. 523-9788 Cell Phone: 889-0344

Immaculate Conception Mass Times

Sunday – 11:00 am

Tuesday – 4:00 pm (Sacristy)

St. Peter's Mass Time

Saturday – 4:00 pm

Scripture Readings for Upcoming Week			
Mon	Jonah 1:1-2:2,11	JON 2	Luke 10:25-37
Tue	Jonah 3:1-10	Ps 130	Luke 10:38-42
Wed	Jonah 4:1-11	TB 86	Luke 11:1-4
Thu	Malachi 3:13-20	Ps 1	Luke 11:5-13
Fri	Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2	Ps 92	Luke 11:15-26
Sat	Joel 4:12-21	Ps 97	Luke 11:27-28
Sun	Isaiah 25:6-10 Philippians 4:12-20	PS 23	Matthew 22:1-14



PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAST TWO WEEKS

Immaculate Conception

Loose (09/24): **\$112.00**; Envelopes (09/24): **\$545.00**;
 Loose (10/01): **\$145.00**; Envelopes (10/01): **\$1230.00**;
 Needs of Cdn Church Env: **\$280.00**;
 Faith Formation Env: **\$5.00**; **TOTAL: \$2,317.00**

St. Peter's

Loose (09/24): **\$24.50**; Envelopes (09/24): **\$145.00**;
 Loose (10/01): **\$48.05**; Envelopes (10/01): **\$200.00**;
 Needs of Cdn Church: **\$10.00**; **TOTAL: \$427.55**

St. Patrick's Cemetery

Donation: \$200.00; **TOTAL: \$200.00**

Thank you for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sat	7	SP	4:00 pm	Rodney Simon †	Karen & Wayne Clair
Sun	8	IC	11:00 am	Paul Robichaud †	Jeanne Warren
Tue	10	IC	7:00 pm	Jean Thompson †	Donna
Sat	14	SP	4:00 pm	John & Catherine Daigle †	Claire
Sun	15	IC	11:00 am	Leo Martin †	Huguette & Family

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

				Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers
Sat	14	SP	4:00 pm	1 st Reading & Psalm: 2 nd Reading / Intentions:	Lois	Stella
Sun	15	IC	11:00 am	1 st Reading & Psalm: 2 nd Reading & Intentions:	Gloria Pat / Vina	Adona

ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

				Leader	Intentions
Sun	15	IC	10:30 am	Gail	1 st Decade: For our Clergy; 2 nd Decade: For our parishioners;
Sun	22	IC	10:30 am	Vina	3 rd Decade: For our youth; 4 th Decade: For peace in our world; 5 th Decade: For the intentions of parishioners.



WE PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

**ALVERIE ROBICHAUD. CHRISTIAN ROBICHAUD
 ROGER MAZEROLLE
 ALL RESIDENTS LIVING IN SPECIAL CARE HOMES**

CHANGE IN MASS SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 22ND Please note the 11:00 am mass on Sunday, October 22nd will be moved to 4:00 pm. The Provincial Superior will be in the area for a number of days and would like to visit and meet with each community where a Redemptorist priest serves as pastor.



The Holy Spirit often shatters our expectations to create something new that surpasses our predictions and negativity. Let us open ourselves to...the protagonist, the Holy Spirit. And let us walk...in trust and with joy.”

Pope Francis, Opening of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops

FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

WELCOME TO SENIORS CONNECT, a safe space for seniors to gather, socialize, learn about and discuss issues related to aging in New Brunswick. Our first gathering will take place on Thursday, October 12th at 10:30 am in the St. Bernard's Parish Hall, 43 Botsford Street. Contact Karen with any questions at 387-4198 or karen.diocese@gmail.com.

MONDAYS @ THE MOVIES Our next film discussion will take place on Monday, October 16th at 2:00 pm via Zoom. We will be discussing the 1989 film Dead Poets Society, starring Robin Williams. Mondays @ The Movies is a film discussion group designed to spark conversation about issues of faith and spirituality found in popular films. Please contact Karen at 387-4198 or karen.diocese@gmail.com if you are interested.

We are excited to announce a return to our **THEOLOGY ON TAP** series of guest speakers. Our first guest will be Dr. Andrew Wilson who will give a presentation entitled **Scared Sacred: Halloween as Christian Carnival**. The session will take place on Monday, October 23, 2023 at Five Bridges (121 Pine Glen Road, Riverview) from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Please contact Karen at karen.diocese@gmail.com or 387-4198. You may also register online by going to www.diomoncton.ca → Pastoral Offices → Adult Faith Development → Formation Opportunities, and then click on the Theology on Tap Poster.

HAS SCIENCE KILLED GOD? You are invited to a presentation and discussion about faith and reason in the modern world! October 26th from 7 - 9 p.m. at Holy Family Church (52 Falkland St. Moncton) Our guest speaker will be Eugene Aucoin, a retired human resources director and university professor who has spoken across Canada and around the world about nurturing human potential. Can faith in God and modern reasoning be reconciled? Eugene's book, Has Science Killed God? looks at three powerful ideas that will reignite your faith! (See: www.eugene-aucoin.com)

